



As reprinted from 02/18/2009

Treasurer: Tax refund check won't bounce

The tax refund check might not be in the mail quite yet. But it will be, once you've filed your return - and assuming you're entitled to a refund. And, more to the point, it's OK to cash it when it comes.

That's the word from state Treasurer Dean Martin, who said that despite the state's financial problems there is enough money in the kitty to pay those refunds.

No one had suggested otherwise. But Martin noted that his counterparts in two other states have suspended sending out tax refund checks because there simply isn't the money in either state's treasury.

"We've been getting a lot of questions from folks after the California and Kansas stories hit," he said.

Martin, in a press release issued Tuesday by his office, sought to take at least some of the credit for the fact that Arizona taxpayers do not face that situation despite the deficit here.

"This is why I started warning everyone about our fiscal problems, so there would be time for action to prevent these types of drastic efforts from being needed," the release reads.

So does that make Martin the hero?

"I have a part to play in this," he told Capitol Media Services. "But I'm not the only one."

He said if lawmakers had not come up with a fix for the \$1.6 billion deficit and Gov. Jan Brewer not signed it, "we might be in a different situation."

Technically, it's not Martin's office that issues the refund checks. They come from the state Department of Revenue.

But Martin's office is the one with the money - and the one that decides if there's enough cash to honor the checks.

Information from: eastvalleytribune.com, <http://www.eastvalleytribune.com>